

Message Text

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ACTION STR-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07

SS-20 CEA-02 L-03 EUR-25 DRC-01 /174 W

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P 040900Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2343

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 7288

PASS STR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRC JA

SUBJ: LOGS: JAPAN VOLUNTARY IMPORT RESTRAINTS

REF: A. STATE 112187 AND PRIOR; B. STATE 113386; C. FEKETEKUTY-SHOESMITH TELCON; D. CALINGAERT-FEKETEKUTY TELCON

SUMMARY: EMBASSY DISCUSSED LOG RESTRAINT PROBLEM WITH GOJ AGAIN ON JUNE 4 TO ASSURE UNDERSTANDING OF BOTH US AND GOJ POSITIONS PER REFS C AND D. FONOFF EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF US POSITION AND SAID GOJ DECISION THIS MATTER EXPECTED IN NEXT WEEK TO TEN DAYS. MITI EXPLAINED GOJ DIFFICULTIES WITH EXTENSION PRESENT RESTRICTIONS. MITI STRONGLY STRESSED ITS PREFERENCE FOR NEW SYSTEM OF MONITORING AND CONSULTATIONS, WITH ACTION IF WARRANTED. END SUMMARY.

1. ON BASIS REFS C AND D E/C COUNS MET WITH SAITO, HEAD, AND KAWASHIMA, DEP HEAD, SECOND NORTH AMERICA DIVISION, FONOFF, JUNE 4 TO REVIEW US AND GOJ POSITIONS RE CONTINUATION OF JAPAN'S VOLUNTARY LOG IMPORT RESTRAINTS. SAITO STATED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN SOME MISUNDER-
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STANDING WITHIN GOJ FOLLOWING EBERLE-KOINO MEETING PARIS

(REF A), THIS NOW RESOLVED. FOLLOWING E/C COUNS PRESENTATION, SAITO SAID GOJ WILL TAKE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN US INTO ACCOUNT IN MAKING FINAL DECISION THIS MATTER. HE SAID FURTHER MEETING OF CONCERNED MINISTRIES' REPS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 5. HE DID NOT EXPECT FINAL DECISION AT THAT TIME, BUT HOPED IT WOULD BE REACHED IN WEEK TO TEN DAYS. HE UNDERTOOK ADVISE EMBASSY AND STR OF DECISION PRIOR TO ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

2. FOLLOWING MEETING AT FONOFF, E/C COUNS MET WITH IISHI, HEAD, HOSOKAWA, DEPUTY HEAD, AMERICAS-OCEANIA DIV, MITI. AFTER HEARING E/C COUNS PRESENTATION, HOSOKAWA, WHO PRESENT AT PARIS EBERLE-KOINO DISCUSSION, TOOK EXCEPTION TO US VIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID AT THAT MEETING. HOSOKAWA ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT MISUNDERSTANDINGS RE PARIS MEETING SHOULD NOT BE PURSUED, SINCE GOJ CONSIDERED PRESENTATION BY AMBASSADOR EBERLIE TO AMBASSADOR YASUKAWA TO HAVE BEEN THE OFFICIAL USG POSITION.

3. HOSOKAWA THEN WENT ON TO PROVIDE MITI VIEW OF PRESENT PROBLEM. HE NOTED THAT EXTENSION OF PRESENT RESTRAINTS, WHICH TEMPORARY IN NATURE, PRESENTS LEGAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR GOJ. AT TIME RESTRAINTS WERE PUT INTO FORCE, GOJ HAD OFFICIAL REQUEST FROM US FOR SUCH RESTRAINTS AND ALSO HAD EVIDENCE OF SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES IN US WHICH COULD INTENSIFY IF NO RESTRAINT ACTION WERE TAKEN BY JAPAN. IN PRESENT CASE JAPAN HAS NO OFFICIAL REQUEST FROM US, LUMBER IN US NOT IN SHORT SUPPLY, AND POLITICAL PRESSURES IN US ON THIS ISSUE SEEM TO HAVE LESSENED. IN ADDITION, GOJ UNDER PRESSURE FROM DOMESTIC INTERESTS NOT TO EXTEND PRESENT RESTRAINT SYSTEM. FOR THESE REASONS MITI FEELS IT NOT POSSIBLE TO EXTEND PRESENT SYSTEM, BUT IS WILLING EXPLORE ALTERNATIVES.

4. HOSOKAWA NOTED THAT, AT PARIS MEETING, KOINO (DIRGEN, INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU, MITI) HAD EXPLAINED TO AMBASSADOR EBERLE MITI'S DESIRE TO MOVE TO A SYSTEM WHEREBY GOJ WOULD MONITOR LOG IMPORTS AND WOULD CONSULT WITH US. HE STATED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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KOINO HAD ASSURED AMBASSADOR EBERLE THAT, IF PROBLEM SHOULD ARISE, GOJ, WITH YEAR OF EXPERIENCE IN RESTRAINING LOG IMPORTS UNDER PRESENT SYSTEM, WOULD TAKE ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE ACTION TO RESOLVE PROBLEM.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LUMBER, IMPORT CONTROLS, TRADE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO07288
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740141-0325
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740675/aaaacmsv.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION STR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 112187 AND PRIOR; B. STATE, 113386; C. FEKETEKUTY-
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOGS: JAPAN VOLUNTARY IMPORT RESTRAINTS
TAGS: ETRD, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005